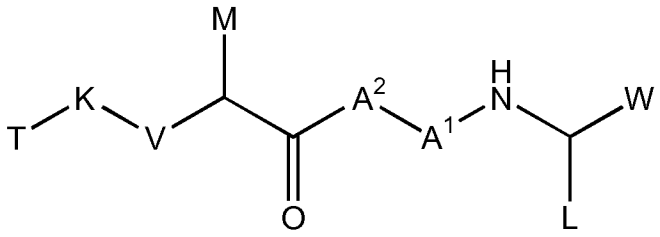
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-43 are currently pending in the application. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 9-31 and 33-42 from consideration. Please amend claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 24, 29, 32-34, 36, 38, 39, and 41, cancel claims 2, 35, and 40, and add new claim 44, as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

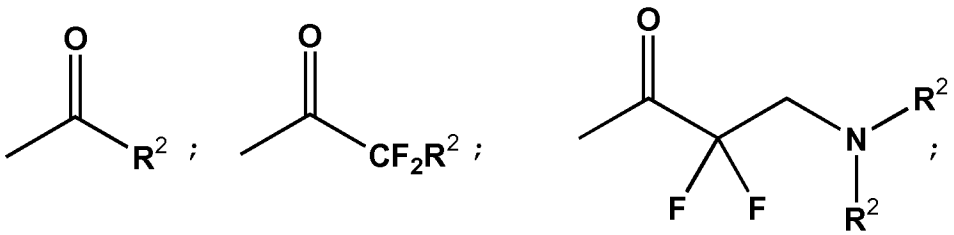
Listing Of Claims

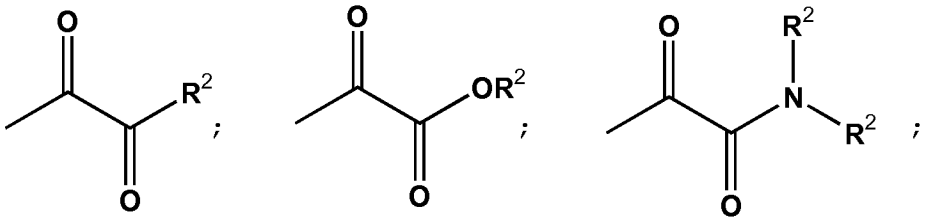
1. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula (II):

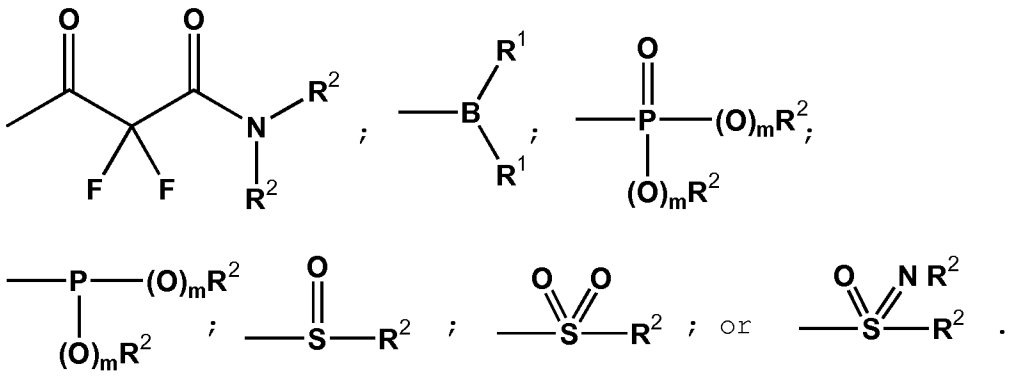
(II) 

, wherein

W is:







m is 0 or 1;

each R^1 is hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy, or each R^1 is an oxygen atom and together with the boron, to which they are each bound, form a 5-7 membered ring, wherein the ring atoms are carbon, nitrogen, or oxygen;

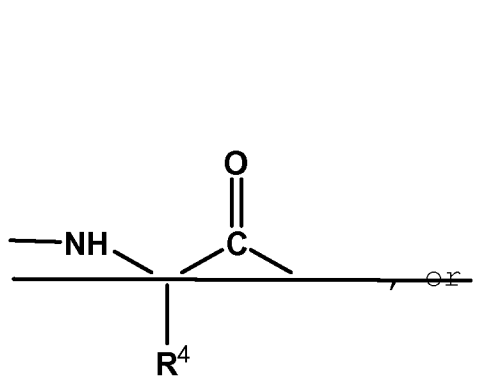
each R^2 is independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, aralkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkenyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl, or two R^2 groups, which are bound to the same nitrogen atom, form together with that nitrogen atom, a 5-7 membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring system; wherein any R^2 carbon atom is optionally substituted with J;

J is alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, aralkoxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkoxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyloxy, heterocyclylalkyl, keto, hydroxy, amino, alkylamino, alkanoylamino, aroylamino, aralkanoylamino, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, carboxamidoalkyl, halo, cyano, nitro, formyl, acyl, sulfonyl, or sulfonamido and is optionally substituted with 1-3 J^1 groups;

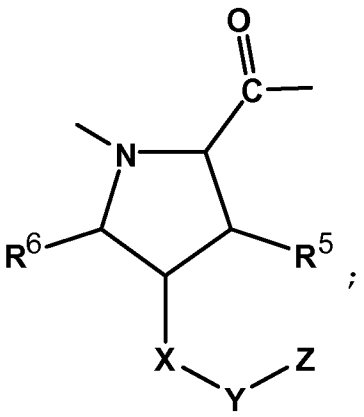
J^1 is alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyloxy, keto, hydroxy, amino, alkanoylamino, aroylamino, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, carboxamidoalkyl, halo, cyano, nitro, formyl, sulfonyl, or sulfonamido;

L is alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, wherein any hydrogen is optionally substituted with halogen, and wherein any hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon atom is optionally substituted with sulfhydryl or hydroxy;

A^1 is ~~a bond,~~



~~, or~~



;

R^4 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, carboxyalkyl, or carboxamidoalkyl, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 J groups;

R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, aralkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 J groups;

X is a bond, -C(H)(R^7)-, -O-, -S-, or –N(R^8)-;

R^7 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 J groups;

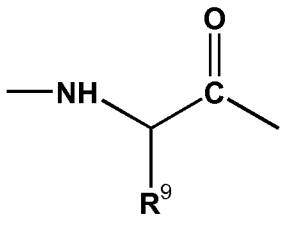
R^8 is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, aralkanoyl, heterocyclanoyl, heteroaralkanoyl, $-C(O)R^{14}$, $-SO_2R^{14}$, or carboxamido, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 J groups; or R^8 and Z, together with the atoms to which they are bound, form a nitrogen containing mono- or bicyclic ring system optionally substituted with 1-3 J groups;

R^{14} is alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl;

Y is a bond, $-CH_2-$, -C(O)-, -C(O)C(O)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, or $-S(O)(NR^7)-$, wherein R^7 is as defined above;

Z is alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, $-OR^2$, or $-N(R^2)_2$, wherein any carbon atom is optionally substituted with J, wherein R^2 is as defined above;

A^2 is a bond or



;

R^9 is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, carboxyalkyl, or carboxamidoalkyl, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 J groups;

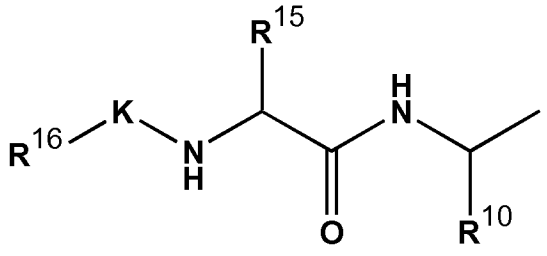
M is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl, optionally substituted by 1-3 J groups, wherein any alkyl carbon atom may be replaced by a heteroatom;

V is a bond, $-CH_2-$, $-C(H)(R^{11})-$, -O-, -S-, or $-N(R^{11})-$;

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl;

K is a bond, -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, or $-S(O)(NR^{11})-$, wherein R^{11} is as defined above;

T is $-R^{12}$, -alkyl-R^{12}, -alkenyl-R^{12}, -alkynyl-R^{12}, $-OR^{12}$, $-N(R^{12})_2$, $-C(O)R^{12}$, $-C(=NOalkyl)R^{12}$, or



;

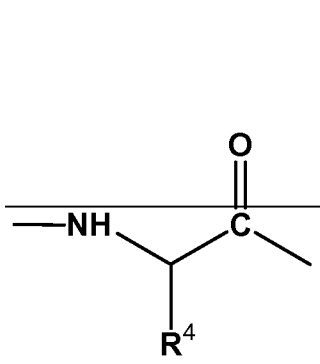
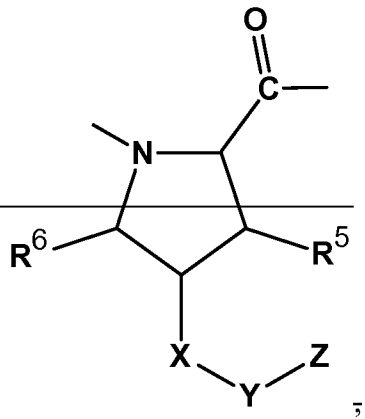
R^{12} is hydrogen, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkylidenyl, or heterocycloalkylidenyl, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 J groups, or a first R^{12} and a second R^{12}, together with the nitrogen to which they are bound, form a mono- or bicyclic ring system optionally substituted by 1-3 J groups;

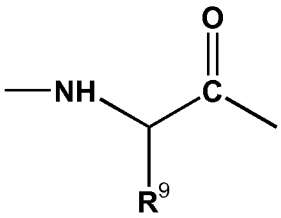
R^{10} is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, carboxyalkyl, or carboxamidoalkyl, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 ~~hydrogens~~ J groups;

R^{15} is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, carboxyalkyl, or carboxamidoalkyl, and is optionally substituted with 1-3 J groups; and

R^{16} is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, or heterocyclyl;

provided that when

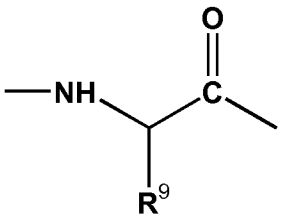
~~A^1 is~~  or  ;

A^2 is  , and K is –C(O)-, then V is not –N(R^{11})–.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The compound according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein R^5 and R^6 are hydrogen.

4. (Original) The compound according to claim 3, wherein A^2 is:



and R^9 is alkyl.

5. (Original) The compound according to claim 4, wherein R^9 is isopropyl.

6. (Original) The compound according to claim 5, wherein L is alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, wherein any hydrogen is optionally substituted with halogen, and wherein any hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon atom is optionally substituted with sulfhydryl or hydroxy.

7. (Original) The compound according to claim 6, wherein L is trihalomethyl, sulfhydryl, or alkyl substituted with trihalomethyl, sulfhydryl, or hydroxy.

8. (Original) The compound according to claim 7, wherein:

X is –O- or –N(H)-; and

Y is $-CH_2-$, -C(O)-, or $-S(O)_2-$.

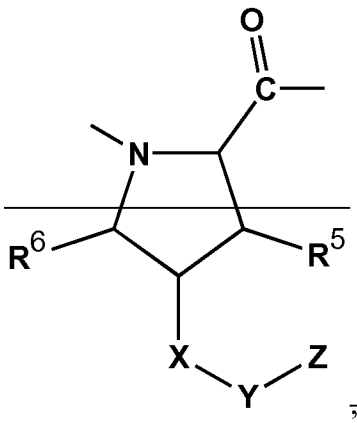
9. (Withdrawn--currently amended) The compound according to claim 8, wherein:

V is –N(H)- and

K is -C(O)- or $-S(O)_2-$.

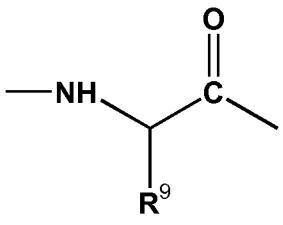
10. (Withdrawn--currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein

~~A^1 is:~~



~~, and~~ R^5 and R^6 are hydrogen;

A^2 is a bond or



and R^9 is isopropyl;

L is ethyl;

X is –O- or –N(H)-;

Y is $-CH_2-$, -C(O)-, or $-S(O)_2-$;

V is –N(H)-; and

K is $-S(O)_2-$.

11. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 10, wherein M is isopropyl.

12. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 11, wherein Z is aryl or heteroaryl.

13. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 12, wherein T is aryl or heteroaryl.

14. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 13, wherein T is pyrazine.

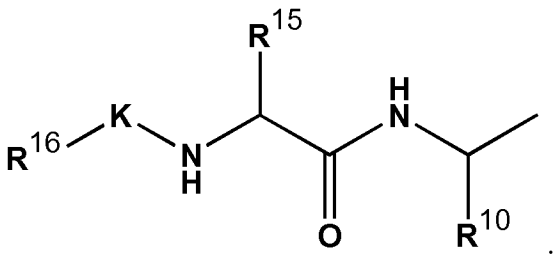
15. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 10, wherein X is –O- and Y is $–CH_2-$.

16. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 15, wherein Z is aryl or heteroaryl.

17. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 16, wherein Z is aryl.

18. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 17, wherein M is isopropyl.

19. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 10, wherein T is $-R^{12}$, $-OR^{12}$, $-N(R^{12})_2$, or



20. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 19, wherein M is alkyl, heteroaralkyl, aryl, cycloalkylalkyl, aralkyl, or aralkyl wherein one of the alkyl carbon atoms is replaced by O or S.

21. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 20, wherein M is propyl, methyl, pyridylmethyl, benzyl, naphthylmethyl, phenyl, imidazolylmethyl, thiophenylmethyl, cyclohexylmethyl, phenethyl, benzylthiomethyl, or benzyloxyethyl.

22. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 21, wherein T is aryl or heteroaryl.

23. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 22, wherein T is pyrazine.

24. (Withdrawn--currently amended) The compound according to claim 3, wherein

A^2 is a bond;

L is ethyl;

X is –O-;

Y is $-CH_2-$;

V is –N(H)-; and

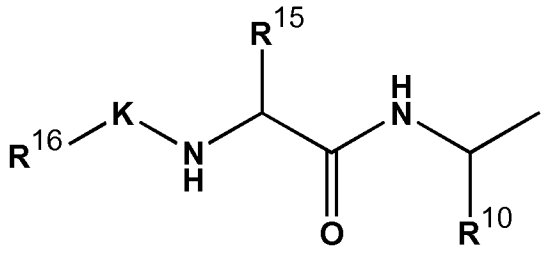
K is -C(O)- or $-S(O)_2-$.

25. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 24, wherein M is isopropyl.

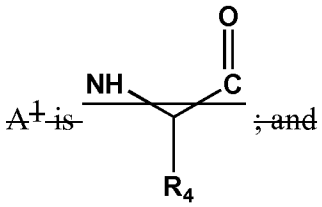
26. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 25, wherein Z is aryl or heteroaryl.

27. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 26, wherein Z is phenyl.

28. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 27, wherein T is $-R^{12}$, -alkyl-R^{12}, -alkenyl-R^{12}, $-OR^{12}$, $-N(R^{12})_2$, $-C(=NOalkyl)R^{12}$, or

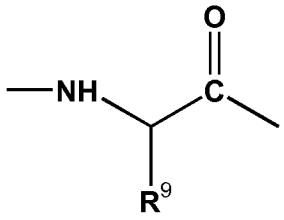


29. (Withdrawn--currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein



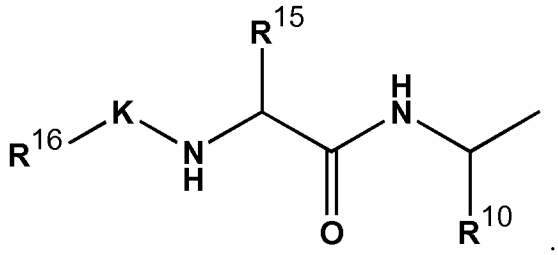
~~A^1 is~~ ~~; and~~

A^2 is

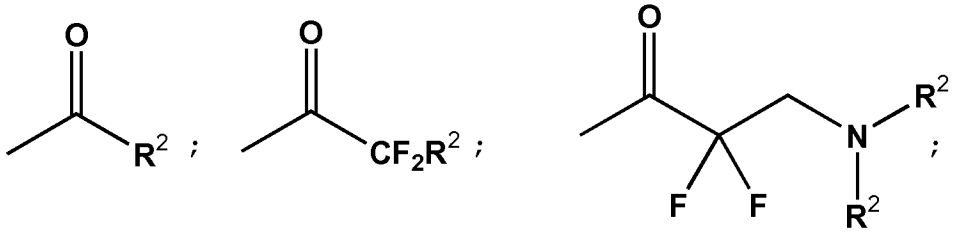


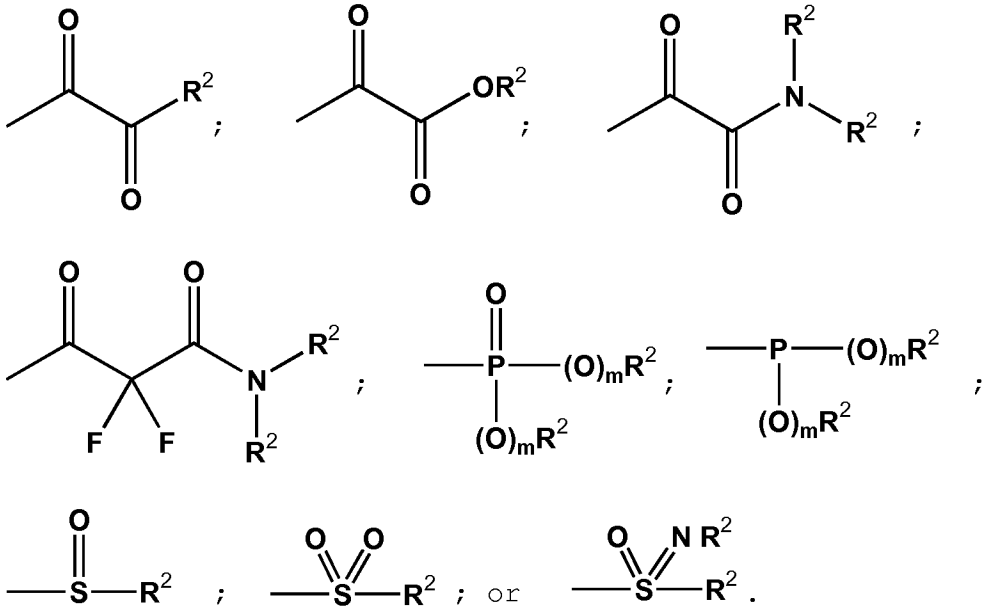
30. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 29, wherein M is isopropyl and K is $-S(O)_2-$.

31. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 30, wherein T is $-R^{12}$, -alkyl-R^{12}, -alkenyl-R^{12}, $-OR^{12}$, $-N(R^{12})_2$, $-C(=NOalkyl)R^{12}$, or



32. (Currently amended) The compound according to any one of claims 1 and 3-31, wherein W is





33. (Withdrawn--currently amended) A pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising:

a) a compound according to any of claims 1 and 3-31 in an amount effective to inhibit HCV NS3 protease; and

b) a pharmaceutically suitable carrier.

34. (Withdrawn--currently amended) A method for inhibiting serine protease activity in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient a compound according to any one of claims 1 and 3-31, wherein the serine protease is HCV NS3 protease.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Withdrawn--currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ a hepatitis C viral infection in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient a compound according to any one of claims 1 and 3-31.

37. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 36, wherein said compound is administered to said patient and is formulated together with a pharmaceutically suitable carrier into a pharmaceutically acceptable composition.

38. (Withdrawn--currently amended) A pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising:

a) a compound according to claim 32 or 44; and

b) a pharmaceutically suitable carrier.

39. (Withdrawn--currently amended) A method for inhibiting serine protease activity in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient a compound according to claim 32 or 44, wherein the serine protease is HCV NS3 protease.

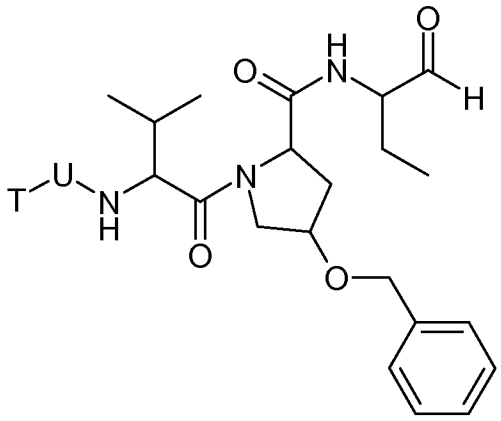
40. (Canceled)

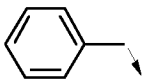
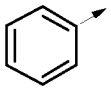
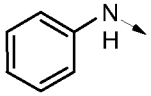
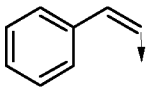
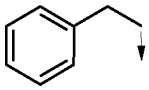
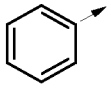
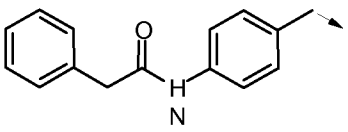
41. (Withdrawn--currently amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ a hepatitis C viral infection in a patient comprising the step of administering to said patient a compound according to claim 32 or 44.

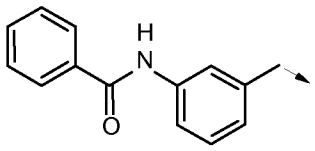
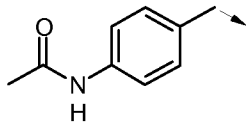
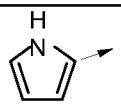
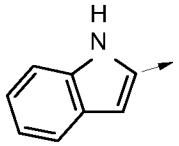
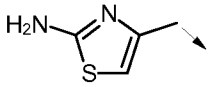
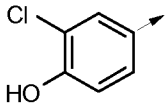
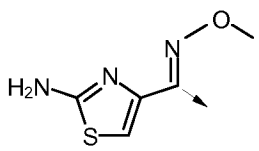
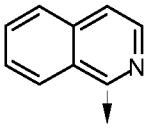
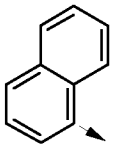
42. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41, wherein said compound is administered to said patient and is formulated together with a pharmaceutically suitable carrier into a pharmaceutically acceptable composition.

43. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein Z is phenyl, wherein any carbon atom is optionally substituted with J.

44. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from any one of the following compounds:



	T	U
143		$S(O_2)$
144		$S(O_2)$
145		C(O)
146		C(O)
147		C(O)
148		C(O)
149		C(O)
150		C(O)

	T	U
151		C(O)
152		C(O)
153		C(O)
154		C(O)
155		C(O)
156		C(O)
157		C(O)
158		C(O)
159		C(O)

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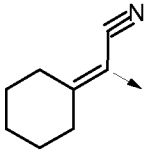
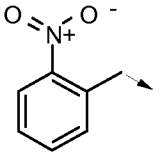
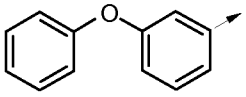
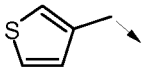
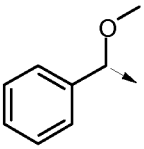
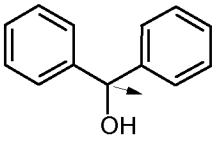
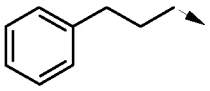
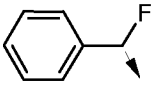
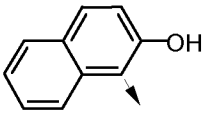
160		C(O)
161		C(O)
162		C(O)
163		C(O)
164		C(O)
165		C(O)
166		C(O)
167		C(O)
168		C(O)

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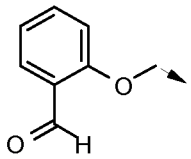
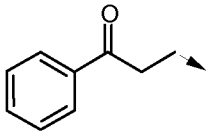
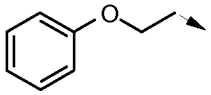
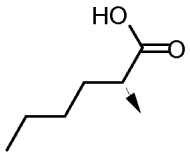
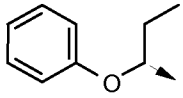
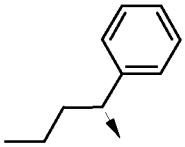
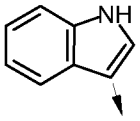
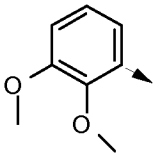
169		C(O)
170		C(O)
171		C(O)
172		C(O)
173		C(O)
174		C(O)
175		C(O)
176		C(O)

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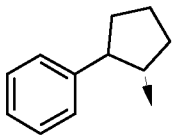
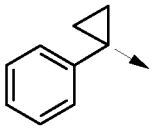
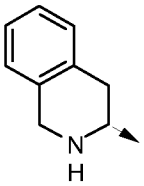
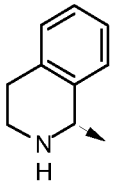
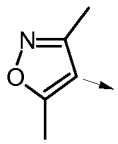
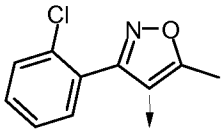
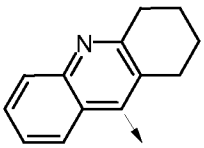
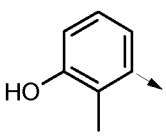
177		C(O)
178		C(O)
179		C(O)
180		C(O)
181		C(O)
182		C(O)
183		C(O)
184		C(O)

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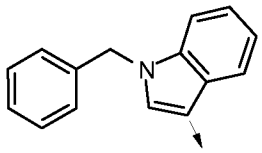
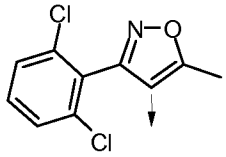
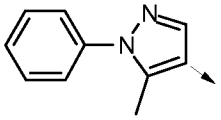
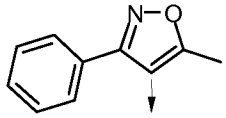
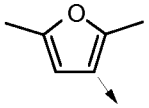
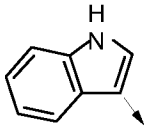
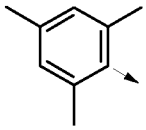
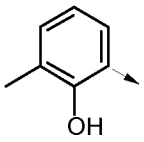
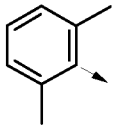
185		C(O)
186		C(O)
187		C(O)
188		C(O)
189		C(O)
190		C(O)
191		C(O)
192		C(O)
193		C(O)

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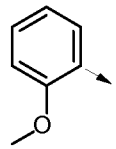
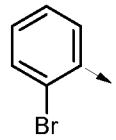
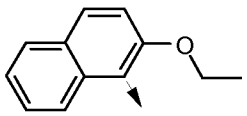
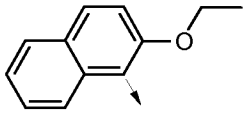
194		C(O)
195		C(O)
196		C(O)
197		C(O)